

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 VIENNA 2293

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: AD HOC GROUP MEETING MARCH 13, 1974

BEGIN SUMMARY: AD HOC GROUP MET MARCH 13 UNDER CHARIMANSHIP
OF TURKISH REP (TUREL), GROUP APPROVED

TEXT OF PLENARY STATEMENT ON VERIFICATION AND NON-
CIRCUMVENTION (TEXT SEPTTEL) TO BE GIVEN MARCH 14 BY
LUXEMBOURG REP; APPROVED OUTLINE (TEXT SEPTTEL) OF
NEXT REPORT TO NAC TO BE MADE MARCH 15 BY FRG REP
ACCOMPANIED BY NETHERLANDS AND NORWEGIAN REPS;
APPROVED TALKING POINTS FOR MARCH 14 INFORMAL
SESSION; DISCUSSED UK PROPOSAL ALSO TO INCLUDE A
COMPARISON ON NATO-WARSAW PACT AIRCRAFT TYPES
IN THAT SESSION AND APPROVED CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 4-10 (TEXT SEPTTEL)

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DISCUSSION OF PLENARY STATEMENT ON VERIFICATION AND

NON-CIRCUMVENTION CENTERED ON FRG OBJECTION TO MENTION
OF OBSERVERS, BOTH IN PHASE I AND PHASE II, PENDING
GUIDANCE FROM SPC. END SUMMARY

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

1. BELGIAN DEPREP (WILLOT) DESCRIBED WHAT HE
CONSIDERED ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY AUSTRIANS
FOR PLENARY SESSIONS IN THE HOFBURG. AUSTRIAN
GOV'T HAD ASKED WHETHER THE FIRST PLENARY, TO BE
HELD WEEK OF MARCH 18, WOULD BE ON TUESDAY OR THURSDAY.
AUSTRIANS PREFERRED THURSDAY. WILLOT AGREED WITH AUSTRIANS
THAT THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST, AS THERE WOULD BE
NO WESTERN SPEAKER ON TUESDAY. AUSTRIANS HAD ASKED FOR AGREEMENT
OF FOUR PARTICIPANTS TO ALLOW PRESS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS INTO THE
FIRST PLENARY IN THE HOFBURG, TO WHICH THE
EAST HAD ALREADY AGREED. AD HOC GROUP ALSO AGREED.

2. WILLOT ALSO NEEDED GUIDANCE FROM GROUP ON THE
LENGTH OF TIME THE INTERPRETERS WOULD BE NEEDED PRIOR
TO THE SUMMER BREAK. HE HAD TO LET THE AUSTRIANS KNOWN
WHETHER THEY WERE NEEDED UNTIL JULY 15 OR JULY 31.
UK REP(ROSE) PROPOSED AD HOC GROUP AUTHORIZE INTERPRETERS
UNTIL JULY 15 ONLY. US REP (RESOR) OBJECTED, STATING HE WOULD
PREFER TO KEEP THEM TO JULY 31. ITALIAN REP (CAGIATI) PROPOSED
THE MATTER BE HANDED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUBGROUP, TO WHICH
WILLOT OBJECTED IT WAS NOT ENTIRELY AN ADMINISTATIVE MATTER.
ROSE PROPOSED THE GROUP AGREE TO KEEP INTERPRETERS UNTIL JULY 31,
AND ASKED WHETHER THE EAST AGREED TO THIS. WILLOT ANNOUNCED THE
EAST AT THIS TIME PREFERS JULY 15. GREEK REP (DOUNTAS)
PROPOSED THAT AS LONG AS IT WERE POSSIBLE THAT THERE COULD BE
MEETINGS AFTER JULY 15, THE INTERPRETERS SHOULD BE KEPT.
HE CONSIDERED THIS A MINOR MATTER ONLY. CAGIATI DISAPPROVED,
OBJECTING TO THE INTERPRETERS RECEIVING ONE WEEK'S PAY FOR
WHAT IN EFFECT WAS ONE DAY'S WORK. HE PROPOSED THE QUESTION
BE SETTLED WITH THE EAST BEFORE GIVING A DATE TO THE
AUSTRIANS.

4. US REP EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS POTENTIALLY A DIFFICULT PROBLEM
IN THAT THE CONGRESS MIGHT BE AGAIN CONSIDERING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS
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FOR UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS OF AMERICAN FORCES IN EUROPE IN
CONNECTION WITH THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL
IN JUNE OR JULY. A POOR IMPRESSION ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF
THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE CREATED IN CONGRESS IF IT
BECAME KNOWN NOW THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED
TO HAVE A LONG BREAK IN NEGOTIATIONS DURING THE
SUMMER. AT THIS TIME WEST SHOULD NOT TAKE THE
PUBLIC POSTURE OF HAVING AGREED TO AN EXTENDED

SUMMER BREAK. GROUP AGREED TO LEAVE OPEN THE QUESTION OF WHEN THE BREAK WOULD OCCUR, BUT AUTHORIZED WILLOT TO ARRANGE TO HAVE INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE TO THE END OF JULY.

5. WILLOT PROPOSED AND GROUP AGREED THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF EASTER RECESS TO THE PRESS SHOULD BE MADE AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT, POSSIBLY IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THE LAST MONDAY BEFORE EASTER. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE FIRST INVOICES FROM THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT FOR 1973 CONFERENCE COST WOULD BE ISSUED IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

DRAFT PLENARY PRESENTATION ON VERIFICATION AND NON-CIRCUMVENTION

6. FRG CHAIRMAN OF DRAFTING GROUP (KRUGER-SPRENGEL) INTRODUCED THE WORKING GROUP'S DRAFT ON VERIFICATION AND NON-CIRCUMVENTION, LISTING THE FOLLOWING POINTS THAT REQUIRED CLARIFICATION BY THE AHG:

- A. SHOULD THE TERM "INSPECTION BY OBSERVERS" BE INCLUDED IN THE STATEMENT?
- B. SHOULD "SYSTEMS OF VERIFICATION" BE DISCUSSED?
- C. SHOULD THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY BE MENTIONED IN THE DRAFT?

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE US DELEGATION PREFERRED MENTIONING INSPECTION BY OBSERVERS AS IT DID NOT CONSIDER IT PROPER IN THIS STATEMENT TO PRESENT LESS THAN HAD ALREADY BEEN MENTIONED IN THE NOV. 22 UNITED STATES PRESENTATION. HOWEVER, THE FRG OBJECTED TO THE USE OF THE TERM "OBSERVERS", AS THE QUESTION OF USE OF OBSERVERS WAS AN ON-GOING PROBLEM UNDER DISCUSSION AT THIS TIME IN THE SPC. OBSERVERS SHOULD THEREFORE NOT BE MENTIONED

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AT THIS TIME IN A PLENARY STATEMENT. FRG REP STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD PRESENTED TO THE SPC ON MARCH 12 A NUMBER OF NEW IDEAS ON VERIFICATION. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO START FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE VERIFICATION REQUIRED IN PHASE I WOULD BE THE SAME AS THE VERIFICATION REQUIRED IN PHASE II. THE DRAFT PLENARY STATEMENT NOW UNDER DISCUSSION WAS NOT LIMITED TO PHASES. THE QUESTIONS OF RATING EFFICIENCY AGAINST POLITICAL ACCEPTABILITY, AND THE DIFFERENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR VERIFICATION OF BOTH PHASES REQUIRED FURTHER STUDY. IN THE SPC THE FRG HAD AGREED THAT VERIFICATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REDUCTIONS BY INSPECTION TEAMS WAS NECESSARY. BUT NON-INTERFERENCE WITH NATIONAL MEANS SHOULD BE AGREED TO IN PHASE II. THESE AND OTHER MEASURES WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY, AND THE

NEXT PLENARY STATEMENT SHOULD NOT PREJUDICE SUCH STUDY.

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

7. BEHREND'S PREFERRED IN PARAGRAPH 7 OF THE DRAFT NOT TO REFER TO NPT AS AN EXAMPLE OF VERIFICATION; THEREFORE, HE PROPOSED DELETION OF A SENTENCE REFERRING TO THE NPT. UK REP EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT NPT VERIFICATION PROCEDURES WERE SO DIFFERENT THAT TO BRING THEM INTO THE STATEMENT WOULD ONLY SHOW THAT THE WEST HAS NOT SUCCEEDED IN ANY OTHER ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT IN OBTAINING AGREEMENT ON ADEQUATE VERIFICATION MEASURES. THIS WOULD NOT BE OF VALUE TO OUR POSITION. ITALIAN REP AGREED, ALSO POINTING OUT THAT NPT WOULD BRING IN THE NUCLEAR CONTEXT. BELGIAN REP AGREED, ALTHOUGH HE FELT THAT DELETION OF THE ENTIRE SENTENCE UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS NOT NECESSARY. UK REP PROPOSED DELETION OF ONLY THAT PART OF THE SENTENCE REFERRING TO THE NPT.

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3. FRG REP FELT SOME FORMULATIONS OF THE DRAFT WOULD PREJUDICE NATO POSITION ON NEGOTIATED INSPECTION MEASURES BEFORE IT HAD BEEN AGREED TO IN NATO. HE THEREFORE PROPOSED DELETION OF ALL REFERENCE TO OBSERVERS. HE ONCE AGAIN STRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S BELIEF THAT NEGOTIATED INSPECTION MEASURES, I.E., OBSERVERS, NEEDED FURTHER STUDY.

9. US REP APPROVED DELETION OF THE WORD "ANY" BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE MENTION OF "OBSERVERS" IN THE DRAFT DID NOT GIVE THE DURATION OBSERVERS WOULD BE USED, AND WOULD THEREFORE STILL BE IN LINE WITH POSSIBLE NAC AGREEMENT TO USE INSPECTORS TO VERIFY IMPLEMENTATION OF WITHDRAWALS ONLY. IF THE AD HOC GROUP WERE TO DROP USE OF "OBSERVERS" IN THE DRAFT, WEST WOULD LOSE CREDITABILITY WITH THE EAST IF NAC WERE TO AGREE ON OBSERVERS IN THE FUTURE. FRG REP POINTED OUT THAT BOTH PARAGRAPHS 16 AND 17 SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TOGETHER. PARAGRAPH 17 CLEARLY REFERRED TO USE OF OBSERVERS IN VERIFICATION OF POST REDUCTION FORCE LEVELS. IF THIS REFERENCE COULD BE ELIMINATED HE COULD ACCEPT REFERENCE TO OBSERVERS IN MORE GENERAL CONTEXT. HE POINTED OUT THAT PARAGRAPH 13 HAD ALREADY IMPLIED USE OF OBSERVERS FOR POST REDUCTION VERIFICATION. US REP AND AHG AGREED TO THESE CHANGES.

10. NETHERLANDS REP ASKED IF THE GROUP WAS IN AGREEMENT THAT OBSERVERS WERE NEEDED IN PHASE I. FRG REP STATED AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED THAT OBSERVERS WOULD BE NEEDED TO VERIFY COMPLIANCE WITH AGREED FORCE LEVELS OR FOR VERIFICATION REQUIRED IN PHASE II; BOTH OF THESE QUESTIONS REQUIRED FURTHER STUDY IN BRUSSELS.

11. DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES FOR MARCH 15 BRIEFING: THE AHG NEXT TURNED TO AN OUTLINE DISTRIBUTED BY THE FRG DEL WHICH WOULD FORM THE BASIS FOR THE PRESENTATION BY FRG REP BEHREND (AND NORWEGIAN AND DUTCH REPS) TO THE NAC ON MARCH 15. THE PRESENTATION COVERS THE PERIOD 15 FEB. TO 14 MARCH. THE FRG REP INDICATED THAT HE WISHED TO MAKE TWO ALTERATIONS IN THE DRAFT. AN ASSERTION THAT THE EASTERN SIDE EXPECTED NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO BE REDUCED AS PART OF ITS REVISED "SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS" PROPOSAL, WAS AN OVERSTATEMENT. US DEPREP AGREED WITH THIS POINT AND IT WAS AGREED TO SAY THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS WERE "APPARENTLY" TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS

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BUT THAT THE EAST HAD NOT BEEN VERY CLEAR ON THIS POINT.

12. THE FRG REP ALSO WANTED TO AMEND THE OUTLINE OF HIS PRESENTATION TO INCLUDE IN HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE INFORMAL SESSIONS MENTION OF THE EXISTENCE OF SOME ELEMENTS OF FLEXIBILITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE REVISED "SYMBOLIC" REDUCTIONS PROPOSAL. THERE ENSUED A DISCUSSION AS TO WHAT EASTERN ELEMENTS OF FLEXIBILITY HAD IN FACT BEEN SHOWN BY THE EAST. THE FRG REP SUGGESTED THAT THE EASTERN REPS HAD SHOWN FLEXIBILITY ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE GLOBAL CEILINGS (AS OPPOSED TO NATIONAL SUB-CEILINGS) AND THE IDEA OF A SEPARATE AGREEMENT (A FORM OF PHASING). THE US DEPREP ADDED THAT THEY HAD ALSO SHOWN FLEXIBILITY BY INDICATING WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS LIMITATIONS ON ENTRY OF FORCES FROM OUTSIDE THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS RATHER THAN LIMITING SELVES TO SINGLE OR RESIDUAL FORCES WHICH WULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO PREVENT INCREASE OF SOVIET COMPONENT.

13. THE UK REP WONDERED HOWEVER, WHETHER THE EASTERN POINT ABOUT LIMITATIONS ON THE INTOUDUCTION OF OUTSIDE FORCES WAS REALLY A NEW POINT. HE THOUGHT IT HAD BEEN MADE BEFORE. THE US DEPREP THOUGHT THERE WAS A CONCEPTUAL ELEMENT INVOLVED WHICH WAS NEW, NEMELY THAT WHILE LIMITATIONS WOULD NORMALLY HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY MEANS OF CEILINGS ON REMAINING FORCES, THE EAST HAD SEPARATED THE TWO CONCEPTS PROPOSING A GLOBAL CEILING ON THE ONE HAND AND LIMITATIONS ON ENTRY ON THE OTHER. THE US DEPREP SAID THIS WAS NOT A MAJOR INNOVATION BUT IT WAS WORTH MENTIONING.

14. EVALUATION OF INFORMAL SESSIONS: THE UK REP SAID THAT HE HOPED FRG REP IN PRESENTING HIS REPORT IN BRUSSELS WOULD NOTE THAT WHILE ONE SHOULD NOT MINIMIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INFORMAL SESSIONS, IT WOULD ALSO BE A MISTAKE TO EXAGGERAGE PROGRESS MADE IN THEM. THE INFORMAL SESSIONS HAVE THEIR ADVANTAGES, THE BRITISH REP CONTINUED, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF A FORUM IN WHICH EAST AND WEST CAN USEFULLY TALK. FURTHERMORE, THE HAVE SHOWN THAT THE EAST IS INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING THE PACE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT, AT LEAST WITHIN THE RATHER QUESTION-ABLE CONTEXT OF THEIR SYMBOLIC PHASE I, THEY ARE CAPABLE OF FLEXIBILITY. WHILE IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO PLAY DOWN THESE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE SESSIONS, IT WAS EQUALLY IMPORTANT NOT TO MAKE THEM SOUND MORE PROMISING THAN THEY WERE. WHILE HE

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HAD NO SPECIFIC LANGUAGE TO PROPOSE IN THIS REGARD, HE HOPED THE FRG REP WOULD KEEP THIS POINT IN MIND.

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

15. CONTENT OF THE FINAL (SEVENTH) INFORMAL SESSION:
THE DUTCH REP WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT WE SHOULD STATE
TO THE COUNCIL AS THE FRG PROPOSED TO DO, THAT ALLIES
HAD "RESERVED THE RIGHT" TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF
ASSOCIATED MEASURES DURING THE LAST INFORMAL SESSION.
THE UK REP AGREED. HE SAID THE ALLIES HAD INSISTED ON
THEIR RIGHT TO DISCUSS WHATEVER SUBJECTS THEY WISHED
TO BRING UP, AND HE BELIEVED EAST WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD
THIS INCLUDED ASSOCIATED MEASURES. ASSOCIATED MEASURES,
HAD NOT HOWEVER, BEEN EXPLICITLY MENTIONED.

16. THE CANADIAN DEPREP (MORGAN) INDICATED UNCERTAINTY
AS TO WHETHER IT HAD BEEN DEFINITELY AGREED TO HOLD A
SEVENTH INFORMAL SESSION. THE UK REP RESPONDED THAT THE
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OTHER SIDE MIGHT WELL THINK IT COULD AVOID A SEVENTH SESSION, THAT IS, A FOURTH SESSION DEVOTED TO ITEM 3, "OTHER TOPICS". THEY HAD, AFTER ALL, CLAIMED TO BELIEVE THAT ITEM 2 WOULD IN FACT BE DEVOTED TO AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCES. THE WESTERN REPS HAD ALWAYS MAINTAINED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD RESERVE THE RIGHT TO RAISE OTHER TOPICS IN A SEVENTH SESSION.

17. STATUS OF OUTLINES FOR PERIODIC NAC BRIEFINGS: THE BELGIAN REP SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE A GENERAL REMARK CONCERNING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES SUBMITTED TO THE AD HOC GROUP IN ADVANCE OF THE PERIODIC ORAL PRESENTATIONS TO THE NAC. IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WHO MADE THESE PRESENTATIONS DID SO IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY AND THAT THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED COULD BE EXPECTED TO GIVE NATIONAL COLORATION, SO TO SPEAK, TO WHAT THEY SAID. THUS THE SPEAKING NOTES AND AMENDMENTS THERETO SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS SUGGESTIONS FROM THE AHG AND DID NOT HAVE OFFICIAL STATURE. THEY SHOULD NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, BE FORWARDED TO THE RESPECTIVE CAPITALS OF AHG MEMBERS.

18. THE GREEK REP (DOUNTAS) EXPRESSED DISAGREEMENT. OF COURSE, THE SPOKESMAN OF THE AHG TO THE NAC SHOULD HAVE SOME LIBERTY IN THE WAY HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF, BUT HE SHOULD REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE AHG ON BASIC QUESTIONS. WHILE HE MIGHT WISH TO INCLUDE HIS PERSONAL VIEWS, THE PURPOSE OF CIRCULATING DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES FOR DELIBERATION BY THE AHG WAS SO THAT HE MIGHT ALSO EXPRESS ACCURATELY THE VIEWS OF THAT GROUP.

19. THE US DEPREP RECALLED THAT THE ORIGIN OF THE IDEA OF CIRCULATING DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES WAS TO AVOID ENGAGING THE AHG IN A CRITIQUE OF THE ENTIRE PRESENTATION. THIS PROCEDURE SHOULD NOT ALTER THE FACT THAT THE REP TO THE NAC SPEAKS ON BEHALF OF THE AHG AND THAT IF HE CHOOSES TO ADD COMMENTS OF HIS OWN HE SHOULD CLEARLY DESCRIBE THEM AS SUCH.

20. THE ITALIAN REP SAID HE THOUGHT THAT A STATEMENT IN THE OUTLINE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE EAST WOULD VIEW CONFIDENTIAL

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THE PROBLEM OF DISPARITIES DIFFERENTLY IF AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCES WERE "COVERED", GAVE A FALSE IMPRESSION. IT SUGGESTED THAT IF ALLIES ADDED AIR AND NUCLEAR ELEMENTS THE EAST WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO WITHDRAWING PROPORTIONATELY MORE FORCES. HOWEVER, AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, THE EAST WAS SAYING THAT IF THE WEST

INCLUDED AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCES IN ITS EVALUATION
THE PROBLEM OF DISPARITIES WOULD NOT ARISE. THE DUTCH
REP DISPUTED THIS INTERPRETATION, EXPRESSING THE VIEW
THAT THE EAST HAD INDEED AGREED TO TAKE DISPARITIES
INTO CONSIDERATION IF AIR AND NUCLEAR ELEMENTS WERE
INCLUDED. IT WAS AGREED TO REPHRASE THE POINT TO STATE
THAT THE EAST HAD INDICATED THAT THE PROBLEM OF
DISPARITIES "WOULD LOOK DIFFERENT" IF THESE ELEMENTS
WERE "COVERED".

21. PREPARATION FOR MARCH 14 INFORMAL SESSION: THE AHG
NEXT DISCUSSED ARGUMENTS THAT THE WESTERN REPS MIGHT
USE AT THE NEXT INFORMAL SESSION, SCHEDULED FOR MAR 14.
THE DUTCH REP SUGGESTED THAT AN ARGUMENT AGAINST INCLUSION
OF AIR FORCES WHICH HAD NOT BEEN USED SO FAR WAS THE
DIFFICULTY OF MAINTAINING INVENTORIES OF AIRCRAFT REMAINING
IN THE AREA. IF IT WERE AGREED TO REDUCE AIRCRAFT OF
A CERTAIN TYPE, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE
COUNTRY CONCERNED WOULD NOT COMPENSATE FOR THIS REDUCTION
BY INCREASING ITS HOLDINGS OF OTHER TYPES OF AIRCRAFT.
THUS INVENTORIES OF ALL AIRCRAFT WOULD HAVE TO BE
MAINTAINED AND THIS WOULD CLEARLY ADD TO THE TECHNICAL
DIFFICULTIES OF WITHDRAWING AND LIMITING AIR FORCES IN
THE AREA. THE GROUP AGREED THAT THIS WAS A GOOD
ADDITIONAL ARGUMENT AND SHOULD BE USED.

22. THE FRG REP THOUGHT THE WESTERN ARGUEMENT ABOUT
THE DIFFICULTY OF COMPARING DIFFERENT TYPES OF
AIRCRAFT TO BE REDUCED WAS VALID BUT WANTED TO POINT
OUT THAT THERE WERE ALSO DIFFICULTIES OF THIS TYPE
WITH REGARD TO TANKS. HE THOUGHT THE ALLIES SHOULD BE
AWARE OF THIS FACT. THE US REP SAID THE WEST SHOULD
NOT SHOW LACK OF FIRMNESS ON THIS POINT. ALTHOUGH OF
COURSE, THEY EXISTED, THE DIFFERENCES IN THE CAPABILITIES
OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF MAIN BATTLE TANK DID NOT BEG
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MBFR NEGOTIATION FROM US REP MBFR

GROUND FORCE MANPOWER WAS APPROACHED, THE IMPORTANCE OF NUCLEAR ARMS FOR DETERRENCE WOULD DIMINISH. THE ITALIAN REP WONDERED IF IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO OFFER THIS ARGUMENT AT AN EARLY STAGE. THE DUTCH REP REPLIED THAT HE WAS OFFERING NOTHING; RATHER HE WAS ENDEAVORING TO REINFORCE THE WESTERN ARGUMENT ABOUT THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF GROUND FORCES AND THE NEED FOR PARITY IN GROUND FORCES.

25. THE UK REP DOUBTED WHETHER THIS ARGUMENT WAS IN FACT CORRECT FROM THE STRATEGIC POINT OF VIEW. THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WAS THAT OF DETERRENCE AND THIS ROLE DID NOT CHANGE, EVEN IF IMBALANCES IN CONVENTIONAL FORCES WERE ELIMINATED. HOWEVER, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO SAY THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF A DECISION ABOUT WHETHER TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD BE DIMINISHED
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IF PARITY IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER WERE ACHIEVED. THE FRG REP SAID THAT HE AGREED WITH THE UK REP ON THE IMPORTANT AND CONSTANT ROLE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS DETERRENTS. FURTHERMORE, THE WESTERN REPS SHOULD BE CAREFUL TO AVOID LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD ERODE NAC FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO FUTURE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE US REP EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE DUTCH REP'S POINT, HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO RESERVE THIS ARGUMENT FOR A FUTURE TIME.

26. THE ITALIAN REP WONDERED WHETHER THE ALLIED REPS COULD NOT ARGUE THAT WITHDRAWAL OF AIR FORCES FOR NATO WOULD ENCOURAGE SURPRISE ATTACK. HE WONDERED WHETHER THE AIR FORCES OF AN OPPOSING POWER COULD NOT ENTER THE AREA AFTER DEFENDING AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN AND HAVE A CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE BECAUSE OF THEIR ABSENCE. THE SACEUR REP, GRIFFIN, REPLIED THAT THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE BUT THAT SURPRISE AIR ATTACK WAS POSSIBLE EVEN NOW AND HE DID NOT SEE MUCH CONNECTION WITH REDUCTIONS.

27. SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS FOR MARCH 14 INFORMAL SESSION: THE CHAIRMAN RECALLED THAT THE BELGIAN REP, THE UK REP AND THE US REP AND DEPREP HAD REPRESENTED THE WEST IN THE LAST SESSION. SINCE THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE OF TOPICS HE SUGGESTED THAT IN THE INTEREST OF ALLIED CONTINUITY THE SAME REPS ATTEND THIS SESSION AS WELL. THIS WAS AGREED.

28. CHAIRMAN'S WEEKLY REPORT: A DRAFT OF THE AHG CHAIRMAN'S WEEKLY REPORT FOR 4-10 MARCH WAS REVIEWED BY THE AHG. (THE REPORT AS AMENDED, IS TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL.) THE US REP AND DEPREP BOTH MADE COMMENTS WHICH RELATED TO THE SCHEDULE OF WESTERN PLENARY PRESENTATIONS DESCRIBED IN THAT REPORT. ACCORDING TO THIS SCHEDULE A WESTERN PRESENTATION ON STABILIZING MEASURES WAS TO BE GIVEN ON 21 MARCH. THE US DEPREP RECALLED THAT THE BEGINNING OF THE INFORMAL SESSION OF 11 MARCH, SOV REP KHLESTOV HAD INDICATED, IN A VAGUE ASIDE TO HIM, THAT HE HAD THOUGHT OVER THE OBJECTIONS VOICED BY WESTERN REPS IN MARCH 7 INFORMAL SESSION TO HIS OWN PROCEDURAL OBJECTIONS
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IN PLENARY TO WESTERN PRESENTATION ON STABILIZING MEASURES. ALTHOUGH KHLESTOV'S COMMENTS TO THE US DEP REP HAD BEEN UNCLEAR, THERE WAS A SUGGESTION THAT HE MAY HAVE RECONSIDERED HIS PROCEDURAL OBJECTION TO DISCUSSION OF THESE MEASURES. IN ANY CASE, KHLESTOV'S COMMENT SHOULD, IN THE VIEW OF THE US DEPREP, BE FOLLOWED UP BEFORE FIRM DECISIONS ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE FORTHCOMING PRESENTATION ON STABILIZING MEASURES WERE MADE. THE US REP ADDED THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSING THESE MEASURES IN THE LAST OF THE SEVEN SCHEDULED INFORMAL SESSIONS. THIS POSSIBILITY WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE EAST AT THE SIXTH SESSION (TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18) AND EASTERN REACTIONS TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THESE MEASURES IN THE INFORMAL SESSIONS COULD BE ASCERTAINED AT THAT TIME. IN VIEW OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, THE US REP SUGGESTED THAT THE STABILIZING MEASURES PRESENTATION BE POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 28 AND THE PRESENTATION ON US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS BE ADVANCED TO 21 MARCH. THIS WAS AGREED.

29. EVALUATION OF THE EASTERN POSITION: THE CHAIRMAN'S DRAFT REPORT REFERRED TO "THE CURRENT HARDENING OF THE EASTERN POSITIONS." THE ITALIAN REP THOUGHT THE PHRASE SHOULD READ "A CERTAIN HARDENING." THE BELGIAN REP WONDERED WHETHER THE PHRASE WAS NECESSARY AT ALL. THE UK REP EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WAS A GOOD PHRASE. TURNING TO THE UK REP, THE US DEPREP

REAMRKED THAT IF THERE HAD BEEN A "HARDENING" OF THE POSITION THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A PERIOD WHEN IT WAS MORE FLEXIBLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE LANGUAGE BE MODIFIED TO REFER TO HARDENING OF THE EASTERN POSITION "WITH REGARD TO THE COMMON CEILING". THIS WAS AGREED AND THE CHAIRMAN'S WEEKLY REPORT WAS APPROVED.

30. THE NEXT SESSION OF THE GROUP WAS SET FOR MARCH 15.HUMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, TROOP REDUCTIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENNA02293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740342/aaaabngh.tel
Line Count: 611
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 26 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <02 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: AD HOC GROUP MEETING MARCH 13, 1974 BEGIN SUMMARY: AD HOC GROUP MET MARCH 13 UNDER CHARIMANSHIP
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005